



**HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT**

December 1 Cotton & Sugarcane Crop Prospects  
Pecan Production

**Cotton & Sugarcane Crop Prospects**

**Louisiana cotton** production is forecast at 1,120,000 bales, down 3 percent from last month, but up 27 percent from 2004. Cotton acreage for harvest is forecast at 600,000 acres. Yield per acre, at 896 pounds, is down 32 pounds from the previous month.

**United States cotton** production is forecast at a record high 23.7 million 480-pound bales, up 2 percent from the November forecast and 2 percent above last year. Yield is expected to average 832 pounds per acre, up 19 pounds from last month but down 23 pounds from 2004. If realized, production will surpass the previous record set last year, while yield would be the second largest on record. However, Georgia, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas are expecting record high yields. The December area expected for harvest remains unchanged from last month, at 13.7 million acres, up 5 percent from 2004.

Cotton harvest was virtually complete by the first of the month in the lower Delta, while producers in the upper Delta finished harvest by late month. Objective yield survey data show boll weights in Mississippi were the highest in the last 10 years. In Louisiana, the count of bolls per acre were the highest on record.

Warm, dry weather allowed Texas growers to finish defoliation and accelerate the harvest pace, with harvest progress ending the month slightly ahead of the 5-year average. In Kansas and Oklahoma, harvest was complete by late November. Objective measurements show Texas boll weights to be the largest of the last 10 years and the second highest boll count per acre during the same period.

**Louisiana sugarcane** production is estimated at 9.56 million net tons, unchanged from last month but down 14 percent from last year. Acreage expected for harvest (sugar and seed) is 455,000 acres. Yield is estimated at 21 net tons per acre, down 2.8 net tons from last year.

United States sugarcane production for sugar and seed in 2005 is forecast at 27.0 million tons, 5 percent below the November forecast and 7 percent below 2004. If realized, this would be the lowest production since 1980. Sugarcane growers intend to harvest 922,900 acres for sugar and seed during the 2005 crop year, down 4 percent from November and 2 percent less than last year. Yield is forecast at 29.2 tons per acre, 0.5 ton below the previous forecast, 1.7 tons below the 2004 yield and the lowest since 1933.

The production forecast for Florida continued to decline as the full impact of Hurricane Wilma was assessed. Producers are now expected to harvest 401,000 acres, 8 percent less than the November forecast and the fewest acres since 1985. The reduced harvested acreage, along with an expected yield decline of 0.7 ton from the previous forecast, resulted in a 10 percent decrease from last month's production forecast.

**Sugarcane: Area Harvested, Yield  
and Production by State and United States**

State	Area	Yield	Production	
	Harvested		Final	Ind
	2005 <sup>1</sup>	2005	2004	2005
	1,000 Acres	Net Tons	1,000 Net Tons	
Florida	401.0	34.3	14,281	13,760
Hawaii	23.9	86.9	2,026	2,077
<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>455.0</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>11,067</b>	<b>9,555</b>
Texas	43.0	37.1	1,639	1,595
<b>United States</b>	<b>922.9</b>	<b>29.2</b>	<b>29,013</b>	<b>26,987</b>

<sup>1</sup>For sugar and seed.

**All Cotton: Area Harvested, Yield and Production by State and United States**

State	Area Harvested		Yield		Production <sup>1</sup>	
	Final	Ind	Final	Ind	Final	Ind
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	-----1,000 Acres-----		-----Pounds-----		-----1,000 Bales <sup>2</sup> -----	
Alabama	540.0	545.0	724	766	814.0	870.0
Arizona	241.0	243.0	1,451	1,300	728.6	658.0
Arkansas	990.0	1,040.0	1,114	1,011	2,089.0	2,190.0
California	771.0	659.0	1,540	1,238	2,473.0	1,700.0
Florida	87.0	85.0	601	700	109.0	124.0
Georgia	1,280.0	1,210.0	675	853	1,797.0	2,150.0
Kansas	80.0	70.0	424	617	70.7	90.0
<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>490.0</b>	<b>600.0</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>896</b>	<b>885.0</b>	<b>1,120.0</b>
Mississippi	1,100.0	1,180.0	1,024	879	2,346.0	2,160.0
Missouri	378.0	435.0	1,054	988	830.0	895.0
New Mexico	74.5	62.0	850	937	132.0	121.0
North Carolina	725.0	810.0	900	830	1,360.0	1,400.0
Oklahoma	200.0	220.0	727	764	303.0	350.0
South Carolina	214.0	263.0	875	785	390.0	430.0
Tennessee	525.0	635.0	900	862	984.0	1,140.0
Texas	5,370.5	5,524.0	695	708	7,778.0	8,145.0
Virginia	81.0	92.0	956	835	161.4	160.0
<b>U.S. All</b>	<b>13,057.0</b>	<b>13,673.0</b>	<b>855</b>	<b>832</b>	<b>23,250.7</b>	<b>23,703.0</b>

<sup>1</sup>Production ginned and to be ginned.

<sup>2</sup>480-lb. net weight bale.

## All Pecan Production

State	Utilized		Ind
	Final	Final	
	2003	2004	2005
	-----1,000 Pounds-----		
Alabama	8,000	1,100	4,000
Arizona	22,500	14,000	21,000
Arkansas <sup>1</sup>	3,800	1,700	3,000
California <sup>1</sup>	3,700	3,500	3,900
Florida <sup>1</sup>	2,100	500	1,400
Georgia	75,000	45,000	60,000
Kansas <sup>1</sup>	2,000	1,800	3,100
<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>4,000</b>
Mississippi <sup>1</sup>	7,000	1,000	8,000
Missouri <sup>1-2</sup>	---	---	1,500
New Mexico	55,000	39,000	62,000
North Carolina <sup>1</sup>	2,500	100	2,000
Oklahoma	6,000	28,000	16,000
South Carolina <sup>1</sup>	4,500	1,100	2,500
Texas	70,000	40,000	65,000
<b>United States</b>	<b>282,100</b>	<b>185,800</b>	<b>250,200</b>

<sup>1</sup>Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast.

<sup>2</sup>Estimates began in 2005.

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## United States Pecan Production

Louisiana's pecan production is forecast at 4.0 million pounds compared to 9.0 million pounds last year.

The December 1 forecast of 2005 utilized production is 250 million pounds (in-shell basis), down 13 percent from the October 1 forecast but up 35 percent from last year's crop. Improved varieties are expected to produce 200 million pounds or 80 percent of the total, while the Native and seedling varieties, at 50.4 million pounds, make up the remaining 20 percent. The 2005 crop is expected to be larger than last year's mainly due to the alternate bearing pattern typical of pecans. Oklahoma is the most notable exception to the high cycle for production because of lower than normal rainfall from summer through fall. Louisiana is also an exception to the high cycle due to widespread hurricane damage.

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